

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Original claims 1-14, and 16-20 remain in the application, with claims 1, 4 and 10 having been amended, and claim 15 canceled. Claims 17-20 are allowed.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-3, 8-10-12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lansang in view of Ohara. Claim 1 has been amended to define more clearly the audio transmitter and remote receiver apparatus.

Lansang discloses a headphone remote control having a headset that permanently houses electronic components for controlling an entertainment center. A person must wear the headphones to hear the television. In contrast, Applicant's remote control unit is removably housed within the remote control unit receiver case. The remote control unit, which controls the television or other electronic devices, may be removed from Applicant's receiver case, because the remote control unit is a separate unit from the receiver case.

Lansang's remote control and headphones are one single unit. The remote control unit cannot be removed from the headphones. Column 3, lines 60+ through column 4, lines 1-3 discloses that the components, including the headphone transmitter, are connected to each other and each is fixedly and integratedly installed into the Headphone remote control, which teaches away from Applicant's removability of the remote control unit.

An advantage of Applicant's removability of the remote control unit is that different remote control units can be used with the same remote control unit receiver case and audio transmitter. For example, a first remote control unit can be positioned within the case to watch a first television. The first remote control unit can later be removed and a second remote control unit can be positioned in the case to watch a second television, listen to a stereo, etc., while still using the same case. Lansang would require a different headphone for each piece of electronic equipment, which would be more costly.

Also, in contrast, Applicant's receiver case has an opening through which the remote control unit's signal can pass to be transmitted to the electronic equipment for controlling the electronic equipment by the remote control unit. Lansang does not have an opening for the passage of the remote control unit's signal, but has a headphone transmitter 32, which is electrically connected to each of the components. Applicant's remote control unit is not electrically connected to the case, and therefore must work independently of the case. To accomplish this, the case must have an opening for the remote control unit to transmit a signal therethrough to the electronic equipment.

Ohara discloses a remote unit, having a speaker and control buttons for controlling a television, that is a single unit. As stated hereinabove, and in contrast, Applicant's remote control unit is a separate unit from the remote control unit receiver case, which has the speaker. Ohara does not disclose or teach that the remote control unit can be removed from the receiver case. Additionally, Ohara does not disclose an opening in the case for passage therethrough of the remote control unit's signal for controlling the electronic equipment.

Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lansang in view of Ohara as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Abe. Abe discloses a wireless headphone. Abe does not disclose or teach that the remote control

unit is removable or an opening for the signal of the remote control unit to pass therethrough.

Based on the distinctions over the teachings of Lansang and Ohara and Abe, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since it is believed that claim 1 is patentable over these references, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-9 are also patentable.

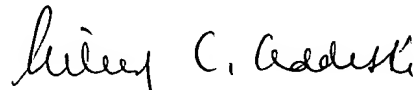
The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-7 and 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 15 and any intervening claims.

Based on the distinctions over the teachings of Lansang and Ohara, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since it is believed that claim 10 is patentable over these references, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 11-14 and 16 are also patentable.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references relied on teach or suggest Applicant's apparatus, as now claimed. Allowance of claims 1-14, and 16, along with allowed claim 17-20, is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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